



FAIRMOUNT PRESBYTERIAN Church

FOLLOWING CHRIST | GROWING IN FAITH | SERVING TOGETHER | CARING FOR ALL

September/
October 2020



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 2

A Care-Filled Response
to the Return to In-Person
Worship and Activities

Page 3

Prayer for the 2020
School Year

Page 4

Join Us this Fall...

Page 5

Tell Us How We
Can Care For You

Page 6

What I Learned from
"Tapping Out"

Page 7

The Little Free Pantry

Page 8

Navigating Our Website

Page 9

Serve Council News

Page 10

Chicken Check-Ins

Page 11

Welcome New Staff

Dear Fairmount Family,

During these past five months, as a global pandemic has kept us from one another physically, God's Spirit has given us courage and connection in unexpected ways. We have learned new technologies, written notes, made phone calls, gathered in online groups, prayed mightily, spread God's love generously and grieved what we have lost.

It has not been easy for anyone, and some have found this time to be a sort of wilderness experience. In the book of Jeremiah, the prophet recalls the wanderings of our spiritual ancestors in the wilderness. Out there in the severe conditions of the wasteland, God did not abandon Israel. *"I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you."* Jeremiah assures us that God's people *"found grace in the wilderness,"* but then he announces a glad promise. There is surely coming a time when *"again you will take your tambourines and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers."* The watchman will cry out, the trumpet will sound and the time will have come when God's people will say with joy, *"Come let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God."* (Jeremiah 36)

In the August 24th issue of The Presbyterian Outlook, Dr. Tom Long discusses this passage and comments, *"My tambourine is ready. I yearn to return to God's house for worship, and I believe that one grace of our season of separation will be a heightened hunger for congregational worship, an underscoring of how gathering together for prayer and being present to and with one another, which we have often taken for granted, is a deep expression of the incarnate reality of the Christian life. Having practiced social distancing, we will have our eyes opened anew at just how tactile, physical and fully present Christian worship is."* (Long, *On Returning to Our Places of Worship*) His words resonate with the longings of my own heart, to return, when it is safe to do so, and celebrate together.

Until then, this year's launch of the program year will look quite different. We will have drive-thru communion on Celebrate Sunday (September 13th), with some special surprises. On September 20th, we will launch a sermon and discussion group series based on Dr. Walter Brueggemann's book called, *The Virus as a Summons to Faith*. On Saturday, September 26th, we will have a congregation-wide virtual Summit as part of the Re-Vision process, reviewing the results of the small groups and spring survey as we make plans to move forward in mission and ministry. You will find more information on these events within this newsletter.

I am blessed to be your Interim Pastor during this liminal time, and I am relying on God's Spirit and our collective wisdom as we navigate the waters of change and growth together.

Keep your tambourine ready,
Pastor Jessie





A Care-Filled Response to the Return to In-Person Worship and Activities

From the very beginning, Christian believers have gathered for worship, prayer, instruction, and “breaking bread” to remember Jesus, the One who called them into one Body, the Church. Less than two months after the death and resurrection of Jesus, the believers “were all together in one place” (Acts 2:1). In an early summary of what church life was like, Luke tells us that, “Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home, and ate their food with glad and generous hearts” (Acts 2:46).

For two millennia Christians have continued to gather, assured of the promise of Jesus that, “where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them” (Matthew 18:20). We have gathered in small house churches and in soaring cathedrals; we have gathered in one-room chapels and multimillion-dollar facilities; we have met by trees on savannahs and in brush arbors in camp meetings; we have met secretly in underground gatherings and openly in rallies attracting thousands.

Until we couldn’t meet safely.

The coronavirus pandemic has challenged churches to continue being the Church without gathering in person. Fairmount has met that challenge by meeting online, recording and posting worship, providing instructions for worship at home, and finding other ways to connect. The strength and resiliency of our family of faith has become evident.

But the challenges don’t end there. As we continue to live with this pandemic, we continue to have to find ways to connect and worship with each other, offer comfort and build community, and remain true to our church’s mission and Christ’s calling.

This document specifically focuses on identifying when and how to safely resume in-person worship.

<https://fpccl.org/home/coronavirus-response>

A care-filled response to the challenge to returning to in-person worship is about much more than unlocking the church doors and inviting all to come, sit, sing, and greet one another as had been our custom. We know the dangers posed and the risks taken if we were to do that. We care enough not to let that happen.

Current Office Hours and Building Policies

The FPC Office will be open Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 1:00pm, or by appointment. Please call 216.321.5800 to schedule an appointment outside of office hours.

While the Fairmount Presbyterian Church building may look a bit different now, we are committed to keeping everyone – our members, our friends, our staff, our community, and our contractors – safe. You will notice signage in and around the church asking you to wear a mask during your visit to the church. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided for you. You will also notice wall signage and floor decals reminding you to practice social distancing. Our restrooms and our elevator are one person or one family only. When you visit, we will conduct a wellness check at the Welcome Center, and ask that you sign-in and sign-out for your visit.



From a place of care and caution, we are taking steps to make sure we are ready for when we return to in-person worship and groups can meet at church.

Online worship will continue to be available for those worshipping from home.





Prayer for the 2020 School Year

By Jill Duffield, Presbyterian Outlook

Lord, we know you hold the future and walk with us even now on this unpredictable path of the pandemic. We trust you work through the most difficult of seasons and never abandon us to navigate life's challenges alone.

As we look to a new school year, we worry about the ongoing impact of COVID-19. It seems to be a time of no right answers, no clear good choices and no comprehensive way for parents, educators and administrators to meet the pressing needs of students, teachers, staff and families. We do not want children to fall further behind in their learning. We do not want to put caregivers in the position of choosing between going to work or tending to their children. We do not want to endanger the health of any in our community. Already stretched resources are pushed to the limit as we attempt to reduce class sizes, expand the ways content is delivered and seek to enact needed safety precautions.

We look to you, Lord, to take, bless and multiply our efforts to educate and nurture your children. We look to you, Lord, who gives us the peace that passes understanding, hears the cries of the hurting and promises that small amounts of faith can precipitate large, life-giving change. We look to you, loving God, for wisdom, for courage, for inspiration, for creativity.

As we make difficult decisions in an unprecedented time, grant us an unshakable commitment to one another, especially to the most vulnerable among us. Send your Spirit to open our eyes to the new thing you are doing. Send your Spirit to open our ears to the voices we need most to hear. Send your Spirit to open our hearts to the profound love you have for us all so that everything we do in this time of fear, anxiety and uncertainty reveals your compassion, kindness and grace. Send your Spirit to comfort and direct us as we humbly look to you for guidance and strength. Amen.

Celebrate Sunday & Drive Thru Communion are coming!

On Sunday, September 13th come to church between 8:30-9:45 am to receive communion that you can take home with you, a new FPC mask (as seen in our worship videos!), and a blessing for you, your backpack or Chromebook! Gluten free elements will be available. Say hello to members of our community and receive a special celebration gift to take home as well! We can't wait to see you there!



WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN CELEBRATING?

As a community of faith, we trust that God is with us even in times of difficulty and pandemic, and we are encouraged by Scripture to continue to praise God in the midst of all that is going on around us. This year our annual Celebrate Sunday will certainly be different, but we still want to see you celebrating! Please send pictures of celebrations you have had in the last year – birthdays, anniversaries, births, new puppies – or pictures of things you want to celebrate – maybe a picture of you in your garden, your family holding a loaf of bread you baked, a dining room table set with communion or your child learning to ride a bicycle. We know you have reasons to celebrate, and we want to share those in a video we are compiling to be shared in worship on Sept. 13th. Please send pictures or questions to Pastor Lindsay at lindsayh1@fpccl.org by Sept. 6th.



Studies in the Book of Acts

Bible Study with Pastor Jessie will resume on Thursday, September 10th, from 9-10am. Email her at jmacmillan@fpccl.org for a zoom link to this weekly gathering. All are welcome.

Sermon Series to begin September 20

“Virus as a Summons to Faith”
(Based on the book of the same title written by Walter Brueggemann)

September 20

Reaping the Whirlwind
Leviticus, Exodus, Job

September 27

Pestilence...Mercy? Who Knew?
2 Samuel 24:1-25

October 4

Until the Dancing Begins Again
Jeremiah

October 11

Praying Amid the Virus
I Kings 8:23-53

October 18

The “Turn” from Self to God
Psalm 77

October 25

God’s New Thing
Isaiah 43:18-19

November 1

The Matrix of Groan
Isaiah 42:14-15

Fall 2020 FPC Adult Book Study

Virus as a Summons to Faith

Join Pastor Jessie, Pastor Lindsay and Amy Kim for a weekly discussion of this book beginning the week of September 20th. Each week we will

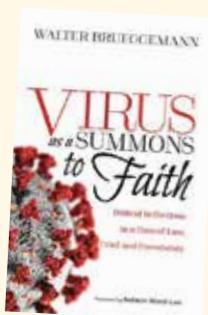
dig deeper into the material that is the theme of our weekly worship. Each book discussion will cover the same material so you are welcome to stick with one time slot/facilitator or attend as your schedule permits.

Sunday 2:00pm- Amy Kim
Monday 7:00pm- Pastor Jessie
Tuesday 9:00am-Pastor Lindsay

All discussions will be held via Zoom. Once you register, <https://fpccl.org/home/fall-2020-adult-book-study>, you will be added to the email list for everyone participating in the discussion, and will receive information for all of the weekly discussion opportunities.

Books are available in the Church Office for \$15.00.

For questions, please contact Amy Kim Kyremes-Parks, Director of Spiritual Formation, 216.321.5800 x121 or amykim@fpccl.org.



Youth Ministry weekly check-ins

Be on the lookout for information for Zoom weekly check-in’s for middle and high school youth.

Club 3/4/5 will resume meeting the first Friday of each month starting October 2nd 7:00-8:30pm for youth in grades 3-4 or 5. If you do not receive information about this, please reach out to Amy Kim or the church office to make sure we have you on the mailing list. This year we are adding 3rd graders to the mix!

Children 3 years of age-2nd grade are invited to check in via Zoom each Sunday at 9am or 4pm starting September 20th. Zoom information will be sent out on Celebrate Sunday.

Congregation-Wide Summit on Saturday, September 26

Please join us on Saturday, September 26, from 9:00am-11:00am for a very important virtual Summit where we will talk about the small groups process we engaged in this summer and next steps for our congregation. Part of the Summit will be time in small group conversation on specific topics. When you register you will self-select one of the groups for this focused conversation. Our hope is that these conversations will be the start of working groups that will continue to work through these questions and topics this fall. Our Re-Vision consultant, Rev. Gregg Carlson, will be on hand to facilitate the process as we move toward needed directions for our congregation’s next phase of life and the search for a new pastor. You will be asked to choose one of the following groups:

- External Communication and Welcoming our Neighbors
- Internal Communication and Member Care
- Incorporation of Members in Mission and Ministry
- What is the Scope of our Mission and Justice Ministries?
- What Do We Mean by Diversity and Welcome, and How Can We Address Systematic Racism?

Check your email, our website, or your bulletin for the forthcoming registration link.

TELL US HOW WE CAN CARE FOR YOU

The Deacons of Fairmount Presbyterian Church want to know about the care you need as our public health crisis continues.

We're here for you and we're listening.

You can email us at care@fpccle.org or call Pastor Lindsay at the church.



CARING FOR ALL

When we prepared for the Stewardship season a year ago this month, we hardly knew what would happen in our world in 2020. It's been a time of national crisis - physically, emotionally, financially, and there is still so much to do to support our brothers and sisters who are in trouble.

Our church leadership and staff have supported us, from afar, in so many ways. We are grateful for the amazing Sunday service videos, the online music celebrations, the drive-thru Strawberry Festival and even drive-thru communion! We have relied on the prayerful communications throughout the week, the opportunities for educational sessions over Zoom, for the small group sessions we participated in to envision our future. Fairmount continues to focus on its mission, even when we

cannot open our doors and be together as we want to be. This has taken so much effort from all members of our community. Thank you!!

While we may be apart, our common belief in God and in our role as Christians in the world truly keeps us together.

As we head into the Fall, it will be time to begin the season for Stewardship. Your generosity in 2020 has been tremendous. Through August, pledges were fulfilled at 73%! That is wonderful. While we didn't receive as many pledges as we would like in 2020, your giving has made all the difference this year.

We plan to start the 2021 stewardship campaign in October. Receiving your pledges in the Fall for the next

calendar year allows our staff and leadership to discern how to build the budget and goals for the next year in a fiscally prudent way.

There is more to come on the campaign for 2021; however, if you are one of the individuals or families who have yet to turn in a pledge for 2020, it is never too late! Please contact the church office (216-321-5800) or visit the 'donate' page on our website (fpccle.org/giving/donate) to enter your pledge or make a donation electronically.

Thank you for reviewing this update. Engagement from each member on this important topic is essential to ensure the growth of our church. If you have any questions about Stewardship, please call Peggy Roberts (216-268-9303).



What I Learned from "Tapping Out"



This may be the most honest selfie of Pastor Lindsay ever taken

I have often been told that I have the gift of authenticity – what you see is what you get. Since moving to Cleveland and joining the Fairmount community, I have owned this even more – trusting that if I can't be myself, I'm not really serving God well.

Late this spring, as colleagues and congregants started noticing my smiles becoming more forced, and my ability to find joy and

wonder less apparent, they began to help me see the ways in which I had compartmentalized so much of the last few years so that I could keep moving. And I began to understand (ok, what they convinced me of) was that what I needed was time – as an introvert in a house full of small children, I needed quiet, I needed to breathe, I needed to be able to focus on one job – one thing at a time. I also realized I needed to be more present with my children and my husband, as we were all (and continue to be) processing all that has happened in the last few months – those things that have changed, that have been disappointments, that have been joys, that need to be tweaked so we can continue to love one another and get our work done while all inhabiting the same space. As grief expert David Kessler said in Brene Brown's podcast, *Unlocking Us*, "We are all dealing with the collective loss of the world we knew...we have to feel those feelings."

So I used vacation and continuing education time to "tap out so I could tap back in." I found that the emotions we are all carrying are so big and need time and space and words and hugs and quiet and popsicles to process and unearth and accept. I remembered that I do really like my kids, and I can have fun playing with them. I also started hearing God more clearly again. And what I heard (oh how I wish it came from a booming voice that was crystal clear!) was God continuing to call me to loving and serving in this place. And also that God's call in my life is changing...there is a new thing afoot that has to do with partnering with God to re-imagine and re-create this world, this community, this congregation.

None of this is easy, and it's certainly going to get hard again, particularly as online school starts (bring on Kindergarten and 3rd grade via Zoom!), but I feel like I can breathe once more. And that learning from what I and we have been through, coupled with this momentary pause, leaves me better equipped to keep going – to keep loving and serving and partnering and imagining and laughing and crying and grieving and rejoicing with my family, congregation, and community.

It's ok to need a break. It's even better to take one when you realize you need one. The need and the break will look different for each of us. God has so much to say when we can figure out how to clear our minds and bodies enough to hear it.

Take a break. And when you are ready, I am longing to hear what God has been whispering to you, and where that might lead us.

Pastor Lindsay, Associate Pastor

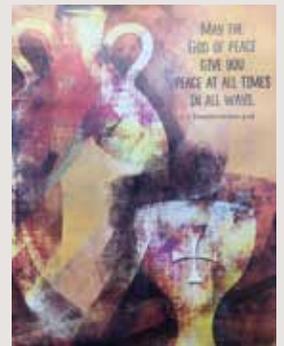
Peace & Global Witness Offerings • Special Offerings • Peacemaking and Reconciliation September 6th through October 4th, 2020

By giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we work to share Christ's peace with one another, beyond our doors, beyond our community and across boundaries. Together we are building God's house where everyone is welcome; where all can find compassion, peace and justice.

- 25% of this Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.
- 25% of this Offering will go to our mid council, joining with other congregations in our area to support peacemaking work in our regions.
- 50% of this Offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

WAYS TO GIVE:

1. Through your congregation
2. Donate by credit card online at <http://pcusa.org/peace-global>
3. Text PEACE to 20222 to give \$10





The Little Free Pantry

We are very happy to let you know that our Youth Group and some very handy adults have been working on building a Little Free Pantry this summer. The Little Free Pantry is a place where anyone can put free food items and other things for anyone to take. The Youth Group feels it is very important during these hard times for everyone to have access to the food and supplies they need! The Little Free Pantry will go up during the month of August, conveniently located right off Scarborough Road near the parking lot. Please feel free to drop off items (see recommended item list). And please spread the word to your family, friends, and followers so

everyone knows there is a safe place for them if they need something!

Thank you!
The FPC
Youth Group



Shopping Suggestions

Proteins

- Canned meats: chicken, ham, Spam, corned beef
- Fish (canned or packets): tuna, salmon, sardines
- Nut/seed butter: peanut, almond, sunflower
- Shelf-stable cheeses: parmesan, cheese spreads
- Shelf-stable meats: pepperoni, summer sausage
- Jerky: mushroom, beef, turkey
- Assorted nut mixes
- Protein bars

Fruits & Vegetables

- Apple sauce
- Dried fruit: mango, cranberries, raisins
- Canned fruit: mandarins, peaches, pineapple
- Individual fruit cups
- Fruit strips or gummies
- Canned vegetables: green beans, peas, corn, carrots, tomatoes, veg-all, etc.
- Pizza Sauce (cans or jars)
- Baby food (jars or pouches)

Grains & Carbs

- Pasta: spaghetti, linguine, penne, macaroni
- Rice: instant packages, bags
- Beans (canned or dry) pinto, black, cannellini
- Shelf-stable pizza crust
- Tortillas
- Cereal & granola (individual packages or boxes)
- Cereal bars & granola bars
- Trail mix
- Crackers
- Rice cakes
- Pretzels
- Popcorn (kernels or microwavable)
- Pudding or Jello cups

Soups, Stocks, & Broth

- Soups (boxed or canned): tomato, chicken noodle, beef stew, vegetable, cream of mushroom
- Broth or stock (boxed or canned): beef, chicken, veggie

Boxed Entrees

- Mac & cheese boxes
- Canned chili
- Campbell's Ready Meals

Milks & Beverages

- Shelf-stable almond or soy milk
- Powdered, condensed or evaporated milk
- Water bottles
- Juice boxes

Non-food Items

- Dog/cat food
- Socks
- Rain gear
- Baby wipes & diapers
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste & alcohol-free mouthwash
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Sun block & SPF lotions
- Toilet paper
- Feminine hygiene products
- Sanitizer sprays or wipes
- Gloves
- First-aid supplies
- Cleaning supplies

All pantry items must be:

- Shelf-stable (non-perishable)
- Sealed
- Able to withstand high temperatures



Navigating Our Website

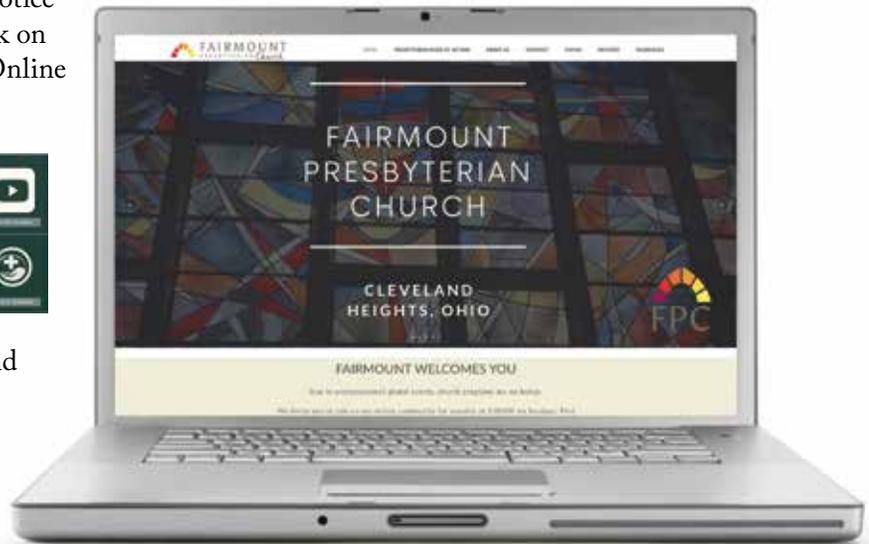
When you visit our website, www.fpcclle.org, you will notice the top images scroll. As the images scroll, you can click on that banner which will take you to the specific page – Online Worship, Online Giving, Faith Formation and more!

Scroll down on our website landing page, and you will also find links to our Facebook page, YouTube page, prayer requests and more. Just click on the icon to take you to that page!



Hover over the words in the top banner and you will find more details about specific campaigns, how to connect, giving, ministry and resources.

Visit our website often for more information about worship, ministry, events, and to connect with Fairmount Presbyterian Church.



Welcome to Realm! Fairmount's Online Community!



CONNECT TO FAIRMOUNT THROUGH REALM

We are excited about what Realm – our online secure database – offers us as a congregation and how it can help us accomplish our mission of *Following Christ, Growing in Faith, Serving Together, and Caring for All*.

Have you already used Realm? If so, log into <https://onrealm.org/FairmountPresby/SignIn>.

If you are a member or friend of FPC and wish to set up your profile on REALM please visit <https://onrealm.org/FairmountPresby/Register>.

*If you are a regular visitor/member, use the email address to which you receive emails from the church.

*Please note, Realm works with these supported browsers: Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge and Safari. Realm no longer supports Internet Explorer.

Why Realm?

At Fairmount we want to live into our vision of *Following Christ, Growing in Faith, Serving Together, and Caring for All* and that begins by connecting with each other. Realm offers tools for us to stay in touch with one another, more effectively follow up with guests, and in general, assist our leadership in their work. But there's so much more. Realm offers ways for all of us to connect more effectively with each other. Offer prayers, share stories and resources. Think of it as a sort of a 'Facebook' Christian community.

Is my information secure?

Your information is encrypted. However, the security of your information doesn't stop there. Are you using the same password for Realm as you do for your bank or other

login? Do you keep your passwords written down or in a spreadsheet or do you use something more secure like a password manager?

What does Realm offer?

PROFILE

You can help us keep your profile information updated! When you log in you can change an email address, a phone number or even change that outdated picture.

GIVING

Manage your giving as recurring or one-time donations in a secure, easy-to-use environment. Contribution statements are always available.

GROUPS

Stay in touch with those closest to you at Fairmount Presbyterian or meet new people. Groups are a great way to get and stay connected. For example, your small group or class can have a group in Realm to keep the discussion going after the class is over.

Welcome to Fairmount's Facebook Page!

It is important to remain socially connected while practicing social distancing.



FACEBOOK PAGE

Facebook is a wonderful platform to share information, inspiration, and participate in events, such as weekly worship, all while keeping our Fairmount community connected!

Visit our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/fairmountchurch/>, and check back frequently to discover:

- Current and Past Worship Videos
- *Time for Young Disciples* and Children's Content
- Special Virtual Event Invites
- Educational Articles
- Inspirational Messages

Welcome to Fairmount's YouTube Channel!

Did you know that you can visit our YouTube channel and watch our sermons, *Time for Young Disciples* videos and our staff Vlogs?



YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Simply visit our website, www.fpccl.org, then scroll down until you see the logo. Clicking that logo will take you to our YouTube page. Be sure to bookmark our YouTube page for quick reference!

Serve Council News

Serve Council has continued to meet monthly throughout 2020, switching to Zoom meetings starting in March. We have had a few guests attend our virtual meetings, including:

- Laura Van Dale from the Presbytery to discuss ways we can partner with the Presbytery and other work that is occurring at the Presbytery level
- Brenda Horth from the Ministry Advocating for Homeless Persons (MAHP)

Although we have been limited in how we can serve physically, we have continued to support local groups financially, pray for our local leaders, and learn new ways we can serve each other and our community throughout this pandemic.

A few updates are listed below:

Braille Books

The Braille books group is looking forward to creating alphabet books for the Cleveland Sight Center with our partner congregation, Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple, once it is safe to meet together again.

Cleveland Foodbank

A small group from Fairmount had been going once a month on the second Monday from 10am to 12pm packing lunches for schools and other groups at the Cleveland Foodbank. Once COVID-19 struck, the need was so great that heavy boxes of food were delivered to families by the National Guard and we were temporarily replaced. Once our shift is reinstated we look forward to returning and welcome other Fairmounters to join us. The Foodbank has continued its mission of providing food for those in need and since Nov. 2018 and has also

expanded its efforts to reduce food waste. They have rescued 500,000 lbs. of food which provided 385,000 meals.

Heights Emergency Food Center

Our local hunger center has continued serving the hungry with some changes to provide social distancing and frequent sanitizing. They usually serve residents of Cleveland Hts., Univ. Hts., South Euclid and Lyndhurst. During the Covid-19 crisis they have temporarily expanded their boundaries.

Hunger Network

The name of Fairmount Presbyterian now appears on the Honor Roll of top supporters for the 2020 summer season for The Hunger Network. Due to COVID-19, some hunger centers lost volunteers and had to pause service. To maintain service the network partnered with closed restaurants to keep the food coming.

Financial Support Provided recently:

- North Church - \$150 towards tray tables to support North Church meet the needs of their congregation by providing meals in a safe manner. Discussions continue on how to partner with North Church moving forward.
- Forest Hill Presbyterian COVID-19 Emergency Fund - \$1,000 to support those from the congregation in need and to support community efforts that are working to address those impacted by the coronavirus whose needs are not being met. Discussions continue on how to partner beyond financial support with our neighborhood congregation moving forward.



Chicken Check-Ins

Once upon a time there was a family who took on some chickens after a pastor and his family moved and could not take them to their new house. The chickens did well in this new home, providing entertainment and eggs every day.

During the second year of living with this new family a plague swept through the land. People were required to shelter at home and only be outside when necessary and to exercise. Suddenly there were more people walking by the yard where the chickens lived. More people started noticing they were there. The family realized that the chickens were bringing some excitement during this difficult time.

When the family realized how many people were walking by and the interest in the chickens they decided to make a sign inviting those who passed by to come closer and visit the chickens. In no time at all people were walking up the little stairs into the back yard to visit the chickens. They learned their names and even met the dog that lived with the family.

The family was thankful for the excitement of people who came to visit, especially the children who would giggle as they would greet the chickens and ask questions. The community was making connections because of the chickens.

So what did the family do? They got more chickens. Once again the neighborhood came family by family, one person at a time, sometimes from one street over and sometimes from the next neighborhood over. They wanted to check-in with the chickens.

Now, the family looks forward to the daily rhythm of people visiting the chickens. The Mom is working from home and has even started signing people up to check in with the chickens. It has been a great way for her to safely connect with the community she works with.

Who knew chickens could do so much to help this family build community?

Here are some photos of the chicken check-ins at the Kyremes-Parks. Please contact Amy Kim if you would like to participate in the chicken check-ins: amykim@fpccl.org.





Welcome New Staff



Konrad Binienda

Fairmount Welcomes Konrad Binienda, DMA, Pianist, Organist and Composer. Konrad Binienda is a Polish-American pianist, organist and composer. In 2018 he made his solo recital debut at Carnegie Hall in New York City. In 2017 he received the title of Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) studying piano performance under the direction of Prof. HaeSun Paik

at the Cleveland Institute of Music. While studying in the framework of the Harvard/NEC dual-degree program, he completed his Master of Music degree at the New England Conservatory and Bachelor of Arts at Harvard University in Physics. Dr. Binienda is a laureate of numerous piano competitions, including the 25th International Chopin Piano Competition in Corpus Christi (First Prize 2017), The Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Competition in New York, and the all-American PianoArts Concerto and Solo Competition. On a number of occasions, he has performed and participated in music festivals in the United States, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Austria, France, South Korea and China. As a soloist, he performed with the Cleveland Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of London, Milwaukee Symphony, Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, Akron Symphony Orchestra, Firelands Symphony, Mozart Society Orchestra and Harvard Pforzheimer Orchestra. Konrad frequently visits Poland to visit his relatives and enjoys hiking in the Tatra mountains. He is currently working on his second album which is scheduled to be completed by the winter of 2020.



Sara Gresh

Sara Gresh, our new Financial Secretary was the first baby baptized at Rocky River Presbyterian Church. Her parents were charter members at Rocky River. Sara grew up in Westlake, Ohio, and has lived in northeast Ohio except for two years in Michigan.

Sara's Presbyterian background stems from both sides of the family for at least four generations. Sara is an ordained ruling elder, chairing and serving at Rocky River on Worship, Mission, Finance, Property, Membership, Communications, Church & Society committees. She has taught numerous adult education classes, mentored four young people in confirmation, and has served on our Presbytery's Committee on Ministry,

Leadership Development (chaired) and Mission Outreach (chaired) as well as Coordinating Cabinet. Sara currently serves on Outreach and Operations Committees and as the co-treasurer of the Presbytery. She has served as a commissioner to General Assembly. Sara has completed the Disaster Preparedness training through the denomination's Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and completed the four year course of Education for Ministry.

Presbyterian Women has been a major part of her spiritual journey and leadership training. Sara has served in numerous positions at Rocky River (circle leader, secretary, treasurer, mission coordinator, moderator and for sixteen years chaired the annual sale). For the Presbytery PW she served as secretary, registrar, newsletter editor, vice-moderator for programming and as moderator. For the Synod PW, Sara has served as treasurer, vice-moderator for Justice and Peace and is currently serving as Vice-Moderator for Leadership Development. She has led numerous retreats and workshops for Presbyterian women at all levels.

Sara has worked at a public accounting firm for eighteen years as the Firm Administrator followed by nearly eighteen years at Old Stone Church as their Financial Administrator. She was a Girl Scout leader for quite a few years. She left a position at a small manufacturing company to join the team at Fairmount Presbyterian. She currently works at Lakewood Presbyterian Church as well. She is excited to become a first time grandmother in December. She has been a fan of singer Josh Groban for twenty years, seeing him over two hundred times in numerous cities and countries. Sara thanks the staff for giving her a warm welcome even in these social distanced times.



Jason Jedlicka

Jason Jedlicka – Interim Technology Coordinator

Born and raised in Northeast Ohio, Jason has always had an interest in technology and the arts. Trained as a musician, he initially came to Fairmount in December 2019 as a choral section leader, and has served other congregations over the years as an organist and pianist. Jason assumed the Interim Tech Coordinator role in August 2020 and is excited to combine his musical talents with media technology and content creation. In his spare time, he enjoys running, chess, and cooking. He lives in Shaker Heights with his fiancée, Nicole.



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The Monarch Family Reunion *(Interview with a Monarch)*

In mid-August, Fairmount's Monarch Butterfly Garden received its first visitor. This early arriver was on a mission to scout out the best B&B for his extended family once they cross Lake Erie on their southward journey.

When asked about his long trip across the lake, Mr. Monarch replied, "Flying over a Great Lake is a gargantuan task for us monarchs, but we enjoy the wonderful hospitality we receive in this land you call Cleveland Heights. I know more of my family are on their way!" Mr. Monarch added, "I did notice this year, the gardens seem exceptionally manicured, how did that come to be?"

We told Mr. Monarch that 2020 is a year like no other. We decided to leave out the details, but described how many of us have found joy and respite this season working in our gardens.

"Your efforts are truly impressive! The milkweed at Fairmount is the best I've

ever had!" exclaimed Mr. Monarch, "I am truly grateful for all your wonderful garden volunteers including Vicki Mentrek, Susan Kent, Jane Reynolds and Sarah Stone. They take such care for our Monarch garden and the other gardens around Fairmount. I especially want to thank them for tending to the delicious flowers."

Mr. Monarch also noticed the area surrounding the Monarch B&B looks slightly different from last year: a new bioswale garden is growing, an ADA ramp to the sanctuary is under construction, and a Little Free Pantry has been built. We responded to Mr. Monarch, "Well, Mr. Monarch, Fairmount is always striving to make things just a little bit better for our congregation and our community."

Be sure to stop by Fairmount, say "Hi!" to Mr. Monarch and his family, and check out our beautiful Monarch Butterfly Garden near the labyrinth!

